

This is an official

DHEC Health Advisory

Distributed via the South Carolina Health Alert Network

May 7, 2008, 5:15PM

Pertussis Outbreak in Socastee Elementary School

- This Health Advisory is to provide information about an ongoing investigation related to a Pertussis outbreak identified in children in Socastee Elementary School, Myrtle Beach, SC.
- At this time, SC DHEC has identified:
 - Two (2) confirmed cases meeting clinical and laboratory criteria,
 - Eight (8) probable cases awaiting results of laboratory testing, and
 - Additional suspect cases currently under investigation.
- For further information see attached letter going to parents.
- Please test and treat all symptomatic persons.
- For asymptomatic contacts, no testing, only post exposure prophylaxis with Azithromycin is indicated.
- For further information, contact Sarah Moorman, RN., DSRC at 843-915-8883.

FROM: COVIA STANLEY, M.D., M.Div.
ROBERT BALL, M.D., MPH
SARAH MOORMAN, RN. MN.
REGION 6 PUBLIC HEALTH
FAX: 843-365-0085 OFFICE PHONE: 843-915-8883
24/7 EPI PAGER 843-381-6710

PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH)
Updated May 7, 2008

Dear Parent:

More cases of pertussis (whooping cough) are being reported at Socastee Elementary School. If your child develops a new cough or cold, please contact your doctor and notify the school nurse immediately. DHEC provides the following important information and recommendations.

Pertussis circulates in the community every year. Pertussis is a bacterial infection spread by **close contact** with droplets from sneezing or coughing. The illness involves the nose, throat, wind pipe, and lungs (the respiratory tract). Symptoms may begin with a runny nose and progress to severe episodes of coughing, but seldom with a characteristic whoop. Younger children and infants are more likely to have this characteristic whoop. Adults and older children usually exhibit only a persistent cough. The disease can be serious and even life threatening in very young children, especially those under the age of 1 or 2. Children and adults, **even if immunized**, can transmit their infection to others.

Due to the fact that the pertussis incubation period (time of exposure to disease to developing symptoms) is generally 7-10 days but can be up to 3 weeks, we are asking you to take your son or daughter to see their private physician if they have or develop the symptoms of pertussis:

1. New or different cough illness
2. Cough consistent with pertussis (bursts of numerous, rapid coughs with gagging or vomiting), often in the evenings
3. Cough duration of at least 5 days

Very close contacts, as determined by DHEC, should also receive preventive antibiotics, and if coughing need testing, evaluation, and antibiotics. Recommended antibiotics include 5 days of Azithromycin; alternative antibiotics are available.

Please contact your private physician for evaluation if needed or contact Sarah Moorman RN MN DSRC at Region 6 at 843-915-8883 or pager #'s 843-477-2416 for questions.

For more information, visit the following website: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov> (Click on Diseases and Conditions, go to **P**, then to Pertussis.

Sincerely,

Covia L. Stanley, MD, M.Div.
District Health Director

Sarah Moorman, RN, MN

DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Reporting of pertussis cases is included in the current DHEC List of Reportable Conditions as an "Urgently Reportable within 24 hours by Phone" condition. Healthcare providers are required to report suspected or confirmed cases to their Regional Public Health Offices, at the contact numbers listed below.

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

Regional Public Health Offices – 2008

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

Region 1

Anderson, Oconee

220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 260-4358
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda

1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Region 2

Greenville, Pickens

PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union

PO Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-2227, x- 210
Fax: (864) 596-3443
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Region 3

Chester, Lancaster, York

PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29721
Phone: (803) 286-9948
Fax: (803) 286-5418
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

Region 3 (continued)

Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland

2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-554-9915

Region 4

Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter

PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 775-9941
Nights/Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion

145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

Region 5

Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg

PO Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 533-7199
Fax: (803) 533-7134
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 643-8386
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or
1-800-614-1519

Region 6

Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg

1931 Industrial Park Road
Conway, SC 29526-5482
Phone: (843) 915-8804
Fax: (843) 365-0085
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

Region 7

Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 746-3860
Fax: (843) 746-3851
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Region 8

Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper

219 S. Lemacks Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: (843) 549-1516, x-214
Fax: (843) 549-6845
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

DHEC Bureau of Disease Control Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC 29211
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902



www.scdhec.gov

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.